by Parliament so that we can take care that the Parliamentary sovereignty or the sovereignty of the country is not jeopardised?

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH: Madam, what the hon. Member has suggested and what Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji has suggested, we all agree with that. The consensus among all the parties is very important. That is a very valuable suggestion and it is going to help us.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: You are referring to consensus after having put the country in trouble.

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH: No, no. We have to take into consideration all the aspects of this problem. We have to take into consideration whatever is suggested by various Ministeries also. We are consulting every Ministry which is concerned with this, whether it is the Agriculture Ministry or the Textiles Ministry or the Electronics Ministry or the Ministry of Finance. Without consulting them, we will not go back on any of the issues. It is only after taking them into confidence, after taking their advice, we are taking our points to the WTO and putting forth our point of view. We are taking due precaution to safeguard all this.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CAHTURVEDI: Madam, is it only a consultation amongst various Ministries, which in any case, will happen? I would like to know whether a study group was set up to anticipate the problems and whether the report of the study group is available to the hon. Members or on the basis of which a Working Paper can be brought before this Parliament.

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH: No, Madam. The Patents Bill has not yet been introduced. Once the Patents Bill is prepared, we will also put a working group on that job. We will go to various parties and consult them.

श्री राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा: मैडम, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस प्रश्न के उत्तर प्रदेश के संबंध में यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जैसे समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस पर प्रकाश डालेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि वर्ल्ड बैंक और आई॰एम॰एफ॰ के दबाव में भारत सरकार ने पेटेंट रूल्स के सरलीकरण और संशोधन के लिए एक कमेटी का गठन किया है और इस कमेटी के अपनी रेकमन्डेशंस दी है कि अब पेटेंट करने के लिए 70 फार्म की जगह 28 फार्म की ही आवश्यकता होगी? साथ ही यह नियम चाहे देश का कोई इंडिविजुअल हो या देश की कोई कंपनी हो या विदेशी कंपनी हो, उन पर समानरूप से लागू होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि क्या ऐसा हुआ है?

उपसभापति: चिट्ठी लिखकर पूछ लीजिएगा।

Question Hour is over.

WRITIEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Non Implementation of standing Instructions of MPs by SBI

*81. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA:
SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several MPs have issued standing instructions to State Bank of India, Parliament House Branch that a fixed amount be transferred to saving bank account on 7th of each month so that SB interest could be earned thereon;

(b) whether the Bank has failed to transfer the amount in time and consequently the party has been losing due interest;

(c) whether on 24th September, 1996 and thereafter attention or CGM and AGM (Institution) of the Bank was drawn through several letters to the lapse but the malpractice has not stopped uptill now; and

(d) if so, the preventive action taken to avoid its recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) According to State Bank of India (SBI), some MPs have issued standing instructions to the Parliament House sub-office of SBI that a fixed amount should be transferred from their accounts to a saving bank account on the 7th of each month. Interest on Saving Bank (SB) Account is calculated on the minimum balance in the account between 10th and the last day of the month. SBI have further reported that even though the amounts were transferred every month there were delays of a

few days in effecting such transfers. To that extent the standing instructions were not complied with. Subsequent to receipt of a complaint regarding the loss of interest on account of delayed transfers of the amounts in question SBI have re-calculated the interest payable on the assumption of transfers having taken place as per standing instructions and the differential in interest has been credited to the account of the party. SBI have further reported that appropriate steps have been initiated to ensure that standing instructions are complied with and that no delay in compliance takes place.

Following the receipt of a complaint from an Hon'ble MP on 8th July, Finance Minister has caused an immediate enquiry and after ascertaining the facts of the case and ensuring corrective action has replied to the Hon'ble MP on 11.7.97

Subsidies as Social requirement

*85. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of subsidies as social requirement; and

(b) how the fiscal deficit on this account will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The explicit provision for subsidies given in the central budget covers items as indicated in the statement below. It may be noted that subsidy on food and fertiliser alone accounted for an overwhelming share of 91.5 per cent of the total subsidies budgeted on 1997-98. The provision for total subsidies is budgeted to increase by 9.3 per cent from Rs. 16694 crore in 1995-96 (RE) to Rs. 18251 crore in 1997-98 (BE). The Union Budget for 1997-98 continued the process of fiscal adjustment within the framework of common minimum programme. The budget has envisaged a further reduction in the gross fiscal deficit as a proportion of gross domestic product from 5 per cent in 1997-98(RE) to 4.5 per cent in 1996-97 (BE). The fiscal adjustment strategy emphasises a tax structure which is simple, relies on moderate tax rates with a wider base and ensures better compliance and serves the objectives of equity and efficiency along with prudent expenditure managment.

Statement

Details of Subsidies Provided in the Central Budget from 1990-91 to 1997-98 (BE)

(Rupees crore)

Discription/year	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (RE)	1997-98 (BE)
A. Major Subsidies	**9581**	**9793**	**9414**	**10764**	**11527**	**12128**	**14233**	**17130**
1. Food	2450	2850	2800	5537	5100	5377	6066	7500
2. Indigenous (Urea) Fertiliser	3730	3500	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	5240
3. Imported (Urea) Fertiliser	659	1300	996	762	1166	1936	1350	1950
4. Fertiliser subsidy to small and marginal farmers		385						
5. Export promotion and market Development	2742	1758	818	665	658	16	400	440
6. Sale of decontrolled fertiliser with concession to farmers					528	500	1674	2000
B. Debt Relief of Farmers	**1502**	**1425**	**1500**	**500**	**341**			
C. Other Subsidies	**1075**	**1035**	**1081**	**1418**	**1064**	**1177**	**2461**	**1121**
7. Railways	283	312	353	412	420	428	466	537
8. Mill-made cloth	10	15	15	16		1		
9. Handloom cloth	185	187	161	174	148	143	98	84
10. Import/Export of sugar, edible oils etc.						100	50	50
11. Interests subsidies	379	316	113	113	76	34	1257	34
12. Assistance for fertiliser promotion			340	517				
13. Other Subsidies	218	205	99	186	420	481	590	416
D. Total subsidies	**12158**	**12253**	**11995**	**12682**	**12932**	**13305**	**16694**	**18251**